MCOG Application Note 13:
Requirement 1-of-1 Applied to Government, Public Policy, and Regulatory Processes
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1. Purpose

This Application Note demonstrates how the Moral Covenant of Governance (MCOG) Requirement 1-of-1 can be applied to government institutions, public policy-making, and regulatory processes while preserving the framework's technology-agnostic nature.

2. Requirement 1-of-1 (Full Recap)

Requirement 1-of-1 is the single, essential standard at the heart of the Moral Covenant of Governance (MCOG). Its key innovation is that compliance creates an **auditable system state** — not a metaphysical wish list.

Any system of governance that seeks to prevent tyranny and support sustainable liberty **MUST** be in full compliance with the three universal moral pillars — Adherence to the Golden Rule/Reciprocity, Protection of the Commons/Stewardship, and Securing of Unalienable Rights — as the necessary and sufficient condition for a sustained Virtuous Cycle of Liberty. This is achieved through the operationalization of the pillars via a modest body of derivative positive law (or system guardrails) that is generated from, tested against, and kept perpetually compliant with those pillars.

3. Mapping the Three Pillars to Government and Public Policy

- **Golden Rule / Reciprocity**: Do laws, regulations, and enforcement actions treat citizens in ways policymakers would accept if roles were reversed? This challenges elite exemptions and unequal application of rules.
- **Protection of the Commons / Stewardship**: Are public resources (taxpayer funds, natural resources, institutional trust, legal norms) protected from plunder or short-term political gain?
- **Securing of Unalienable Rights**: Do policies protect inherent rights to life, liberty, conscience, due process, and non-discrimination? Do they avoid normalizing rights violations during crises?

4. Functional Interface

Government and regulatory bodies should apply the Three-Pillar Compliance Filter to:

- Proposed legislation and executive orders
- Regulatory rulemaking and enforcement decisions
- Budget and resource allocation
- Emergency powers and crisis response measures

The Filter returns:

- Compliance decision (Permit / Deny / Modify)
- ROLIS/ROTIS impact assessment

- Recommended adjustments

This can be implemented as a formal legislative or agency review process.

5. Examples

- **Emergency Powers Expansion**: A government expands surveillance or regulatory authority during a crisis without sunset clauses. **Filter Outcome**: High risk to Pillar 3 (rights erosion) and Pillar 1 (asymmetry). Recommendation: Include strict time limits and independent oversight.
- **Regulatory Capture**: Agencies draft rules that disproportionately favor large industry players. **Filter Outcome**: Violation of Pillar 1 (asymmetry) and Pillar 2 (commons plunder). Recommendation: Require transparent stakeholder input and competitive neutrality.

6. Benefits and Implementation Guidance

Requirement 1-of-1 helps governments create more legitimate, resilient, and trustworthy institutions. It reduces the risk of gradual authoritarian drift and supports long-term public trust. Policymakers can begin with voluntary review checklists and evolve toward formal integration.

Future Work: Pilot programs in legislative bodies and regulatory agencies.

Document Availability

The full technical specification, logic proofs, and structural taxonomies are published under Creative Commons licensing as a public-domain Request for Comments (RFC).

- ***Open Standard for the Identification and Prevention of Tyrannical Governance: The Moral Covenant of Governance (MCOG) — Requirement 1-of-1, May 2026; Free download:*** *https://archive.org/details/open-standard-mcog-req-1-of-1-v-01*
- ***Addendum A: The Three-Pillar Compliance Filter — Functional Specification and Examples, to Open Standard for the Identification and Prevention of Tyrannical Governance: The Moral Covenant of Governance (MCOG) — Requirement 1-of-1, July 2026; Free Downloads:*** *https://archive.org/details/open-standard-mcog-req-1-of-1-addendum-a-v-01*
- **The full MCOG body of work, including all application notes, are available for Free Downloads here:** https://archive.org/details/@michael_fargano/uploads
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"Power without moral anchors eventually corrupts. Requirement 1-of-1 is that anchor."